

THE HANFORD SITE

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**RICHLAND
OPERATIONS OFFICE**
United States Department of Energy



HAMMER Achieves Two Million Safe Work Hours

Richland, Wash. – In April, the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center, managed by DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) contractor Mission Support Alliance, achieved two million safe work hours, a milestone made possible by its dedicated staff, trainers and oversight and support personnel.

“Reaching two million safe hours is only possible with worker involvement and a commitment to maintaining a strong safety culture,” said Jill Conrad, RL program manager for HAMMER. “Congratulations to everyone who played a role in reaching this major safety milestone.”

HAMMER is a premier training provider for the Hanford Site and federal customers across the nation, and safety is inherent to its mission. HAMMER has proudly maintained Voluntary Protection Program status since 2002 and received the Legacy of Stars award last summer.

With its safety culture solidly in place, HAMMER utilizes its unique facility and expert trainers to provide the realistic training needed to prepare workers for high-hazard, complex work.

“I’m really proud of our team for maintaining a safe workplace,” said Paul Vandervert, HAMMER’s director. “As a small organization, we have worked diligently over the past eight years to reach this accomplishment.”

HAMMER continues to maintain its safety performance even in the face of new and unanticipated challenges. The training center is experiencing its highest volume of students since 2011, while also going through staff transitions and ensuring safety culture and values are instilled in new employees.



Workers at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center recently reached two million safe work hours without a lost workday injury. HAMMER is a small organization and has worked diligently over the past eight years toward this accomplishment.

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The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government’s cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. The DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford’s 177 underground tanks. The River Protection Project is the largest and most complex environmental remediation project in the nation. ORP oversees the tank waste management mission and the building of the world’s largest radioactive waste treatment plant, which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification. The DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future, with an emphasis on supporting the tank waste mission. The two offices oversee Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 9,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov for more information about Hanford Site.

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <https://msa.hanford.gov>

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